



WHALESONG

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UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA SOUTHEAST

October 31, 2000

Helen Cam puts college in ghostly mood

By Billy O'Keefe
TMS Campus

With Halloween right around the corner, Coe College in Iowa is getting into the spirit. Or is the spirit getting into Coe College?

The Cedar Rapids school, along with statewide community Web site Iowa.com, has launched the Helen Cam, which aims to commit to video images of the ghost of a former student who died 82 years ago on campus.

Helen was a freshman at Coe in 1918 when she died Oct. 19 in Voorhees Residence Hall after a bout with the flu. Since her death, students have reported numerous sightings of Helen, both in Voorhees and near a grandfather clock that Helen's parents donated to the college after her death. The camera points to the latter location, located near the president's office in Stuart Hall.

Helen sightings are so

common that for most Coe students, she needs no introduction.

"You say 'Helen,' and people automatically know," says Coe spokesperson Beth Chacey. "It's a college legend."

Originally, the college and Iowa.com had planned to celebrate the ghost of Helen separately, but once the two parties realized their shared enthusiasm for the project, they joined forces, and the Helen Cam was born.

Message boards, accounts of Helen sightings and contests round up the site's content. A "Helen Hunting" party on the anniversary of her death featured storytelling, seances and, of course, some Helen hunting.

Chacey says that the

college and Iowa.com set up the camera without much pre-launch hype, opting instead to gauge the community's reaction to the idea. For the most part, she says, the Helen Cam has been "very popular and highly embraced."

For the most part.

"A couple of students [who reside in Voorhees] didn't want the publicity

it would bring," Chacey says. "And one student thought that we were essentially mocking a dead person."

Meanwhile, a psychic called the college and advised students to shelve a planned attempt at contacting Helen with a Ouija board, warning that other spirits could escape in the process.

Heavy stuff, for sure. But

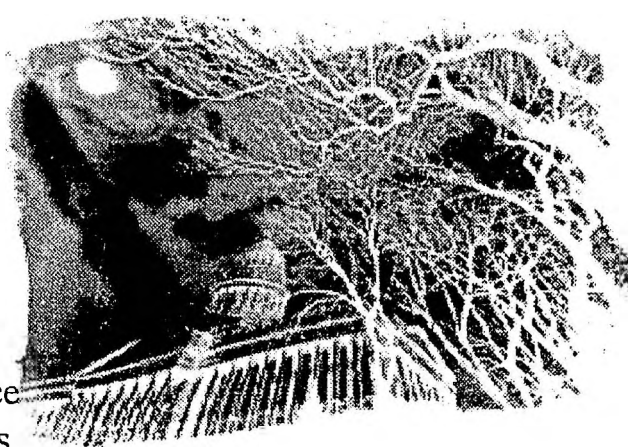
event is not to raise the dead or anyone's blood pressure, just to have a little fun with a campus legend and a popular holiday.

"Helen was a very real person—someone's daughter, someone's only child," she says. "We just want to combine something that's tasteful and sensitive to that, with something that's fun and has elements of a ghost story."

According to the college, the first Helen sighting surfaced in 1919 when a student claimed that a spirit rattled her bed and pulled her covers off.

Most recently, a construction worker taking photos for a planned renovation of the hall captured on film a student standing near the site of Helen's death, despite his own assurance that students had vacated the area at the time.

On the Web: Check out the Helen Cam at <http://halloween.iowa.com>



State of Alaska voting issues examined

By Seneca Theno
Whalesong Staff

On November 7th, voters will be asked to determine a lot of very important issues for the State of Alaska. Often times, voters are not completely aware of what they are voting for or against in the few minutes they have in the voting box. Wordy proposals and contradictory vocabulary (to vote yes means no) puts the legitimacy of such votes in question. Voters are often heard to say, after the fact, "Oh, I didn't know that's what that vote meant! I wouldn't have voted that way if I'd known" Here, an attempt is made to make voters aware of the issues before they step into the booth, and to sort through the tangle of politic jumble. Each issue is presented with its official wording, as voters will see it on the ballot, then a definition of

what a yes vote or a no vote will do, followed by a summary of the main issues for or against the measure.

Ballot Measure 1: Constitutional Amendment

This ballot measure would change the Alaska Constitution so that voters could not use the initiative process to make laws that permit, regulate, or prohibit taking or transporting wildlife, or prescribe seasons or methods for taking wildlife. Should this Constitutional Amendment be adopted?

Voting yes on ballot measure 1 means that the constitution would change and voters would not be allowed to use initiatives to create laws. Voting no means that the constitution does not change and voters may still use initiatives to create laws.

The main issue in support of the measure is that it will prevent groups from outside attempting to change or dictate Alaskan laws. The main issue against the measure is that it will take power away from individuals, including Alaskans.

Ballot Measure 2: Constitutional Amendment

This proposal says that an amendment to the Alaska Constitution is a change that is limited to one subject. It may affect more than one part of the constitution. This proposal also adds a new section to article XIII of the Alaska Constitution. It says that a court may not change the language of an amendment to the constitution proposed by the legislature. Also, a court may not change the language of an amendment or revision proposed by a

constitutional convention. Should this Constitutional Amendment be adopted?

Voting yes on ballot measure 2 specifically defines what an amendment is or may be, and adds a new section to the constitution limiting the ability of the courts to change the language of amendments. Voting no on ballot measure 2 means that no change is made to the constitution.

The main issue in support is the desire to lend an absolute definition to an amendment (as opposed to a revision). The main issue against the measure is that it will upset the balance of the constitution, giving more power to the legislature.

Ballot Measure 3: Constitutional Amendment

...continued on page 4

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Editorial

Due to the upcoming elections, the editorial page has been dedicated to presidential election opinion. Please see page 9 for a statement from the editor.

The state of the state of Texas

By Annette Nelson-Wright
Whalesong Contributor

The current state of the State of Texas should be declaration enough about whether or not George W. Bush would be a successful president. But that depends on how you determine success.

Anyone here going after a degree in education so you can be a teacher? Under good ol' GW, Texas ranks 50th in spending for teachers' salaries, so don't expect him to support any federal funding for you and yours.

Maybe you're pursuing the new Environmental Science degree, or biology, or fisheries. Well, you're one better than the would-be teachers, since Texas ranks 49th in spending on the environment. Though if you're in fisheries you may not have anything to work on since Texas ranks number 1 in air and water pollution, so all of the fish may be dead. Though perhaps you could study the ones with acetes (where the cell membranes leak and cause

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Mr. Know-it-all vs. Mr. Consensus

By Knight-Ridder Tribune

Whether televised presidential debates are a great idea remains an open question. But this year's trio of confrontations has furnished some answers to questions often asked during presidential campaigns.

What do Americans look for in their candidates? If they seek someone who is well versed in policy detail, and eager and able to point out his opponent's deficiencies in debate, they respond well to Al Gore. The Vice President is clearly conversant with policies and statistics, and effortlessly rattles off the virtues of, say, the Dingell-Norwood Bill. If voters prefer a candidate who expresses broad philosophical principles, and extols consensus instead of confrontation, they will probably find George W. Bush appealing.

Of course, Ralph Nader's and Patrick Buchanan's comments notwithstanding, there are major differences between the two candidates: on taxes, the role of government, federal-state relations, affirmative action, foreign policy and other issues.

But if history is any guide, the public uses debates not so much to research differences of opinion, most voters have at least a fuzzy idea where candidates stand, but to illuminate character and leadership qualities.

On that basis, these three debates have not been helpful to Al Gore. In the first meeting, his condescension and seeming bad manners played poorly with voters. In the second debate, he was extravagantly subdued, as if coached by his advisers to disguise his personality. On Tuesday night, in St. Louis, the old Al Gore was back: focused, argumentative, in command of his material, and also

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If politics were baseball, Nader would sweep the World Series

By Mark Weisbrot
Knight-Ridder Tribune

WASHINGTON - The Subway Series seems to have attracted a bigger, and certainly more interested, following than the elections of 2000, even outside of the Big Apple.

More people will probably know about Roger Clemens throwing that piece of a broken bat at Mike Piazza, and ponder its significance, too — than any particular confrontation between presidential candidates Al Gore and George W. Bush.

There are a number of very understandable reasons Americans might prefer sports to politics. Honesty and fairness are two of them. You don't get to be Derek Jeter because your father made the right connections, or you were born into money. Or worse, because you took a bribe from rich contributors and threw the game.

Ann Richards' famous sound bite about George W's father, "He was born on third base and thinks he hit a triple," captured this contrast between the arena of sports and so many other endeavors, in a society in which human relations and achievements are so often corrupted by the influence of money and wealth.

And our politics offer the polar extreme of this corruption. Just look at the presidential contest that is being served up. While there are certainly some significant differences between the Republican and Democratic nominees, these are tiny compared to what would emerge in an honest, rule-based system like baseball.

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On Campus

Camping for Princesses 101...

By Lola Granola
Whalesong Contributor

There is so much to learn about camping, and that seems even more intensified when one is a princess. On my recent camping adventures with my Philosophy class I have learned some very valuable lessons, especially for an inexperienced camper such as myself. Do not get me wrong; I have camped before. You know the kind of camping I have done: the manicured lawns, the showers 2 feet from the campsite, a queen size air mattress with a down comforter, and a tent with 2 rooms. Lanterns and a b-b-q pit built right in. If I forgot something I could jump in my car and run to the store, which was about a mile away. So, needless to say, these outings were an adventure for me.

One of the first lessons I learned was that it is important for your backpack not to outweigh you. I needed help getting the darn thing on my back, and I ended up on the first trip walking in a sort of hunched over position trying to balance the awkward thing strapped to me. In addition, let's talk about those straps! They dig into my belly ring and across my chest so tight that I knew a man must have designed them! There was, of course, not a single thing that I could have removed from my pack to make it lighter, as everything I brought was of great importance.

As I tromped along the short hike to the campsite in my Outdoor Research hat and matching rain gear, I kept thinking, "This is fun, right?" I mean, I certainly felt the part. I had my cute little braids working for me, my Timberland hiking boots, and my cool pocket knife, just in case. I had my Nalgene bottle and my dried foods. I was totally accessorized! Camping is fabulous if you have the right accessories! I had brought along extra socks and pants and a sweatshirt, matching gray down vest, and a Gap hat! My sleeping bag (thanks

I do!) was a -15 degree mummy bag so I was sure to be warm, a vanilla scented candle, green apple hand sanitizer, peach lotion, and bubble gum lip gloss! I was a veritable fruit salad of good smelling items to keep me from reeking of camp. However, I was quickly informed that everything that I had brought was an invitation for a bear. And while I really would like to see a bear, the thought of becoming a bear's meal for the evening was not that appealing, so everything but the hand sanitizer went into a plastic bag and strung from a tree.

I actually like camping, even if we really have not hiked too

far away from everything yet. After all, I have hiked before; it was the camping I was worried about. I mean, let's face it, those of you who really know me know I like to sleep with 4 pillows and am always cold. You know I do not like getting my hands dirty, and that I prefer to have people carry things for me (not because I can't, but because why do it yourself when someone else will help?). I like to smell nice and be able to wake up and shower, and brush my teeth in the sink. (Yes, I still brushed my teeth, but I would have loved to be able to wash my face too!)

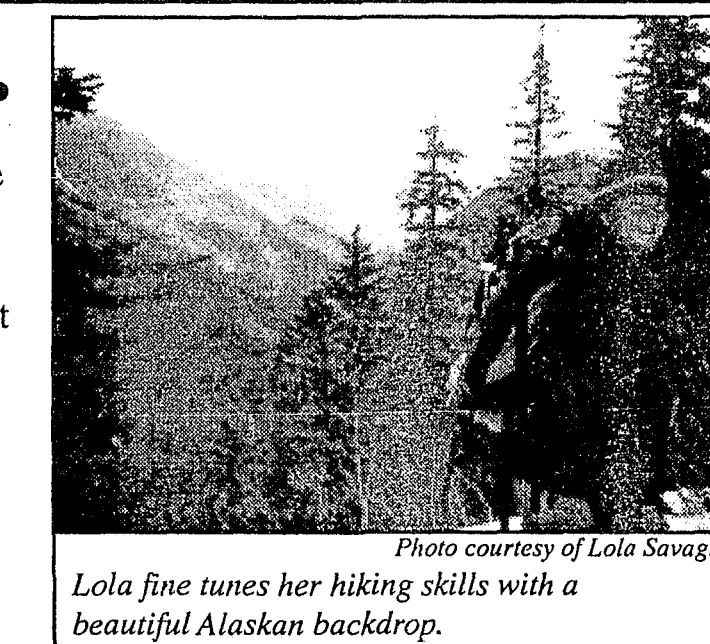
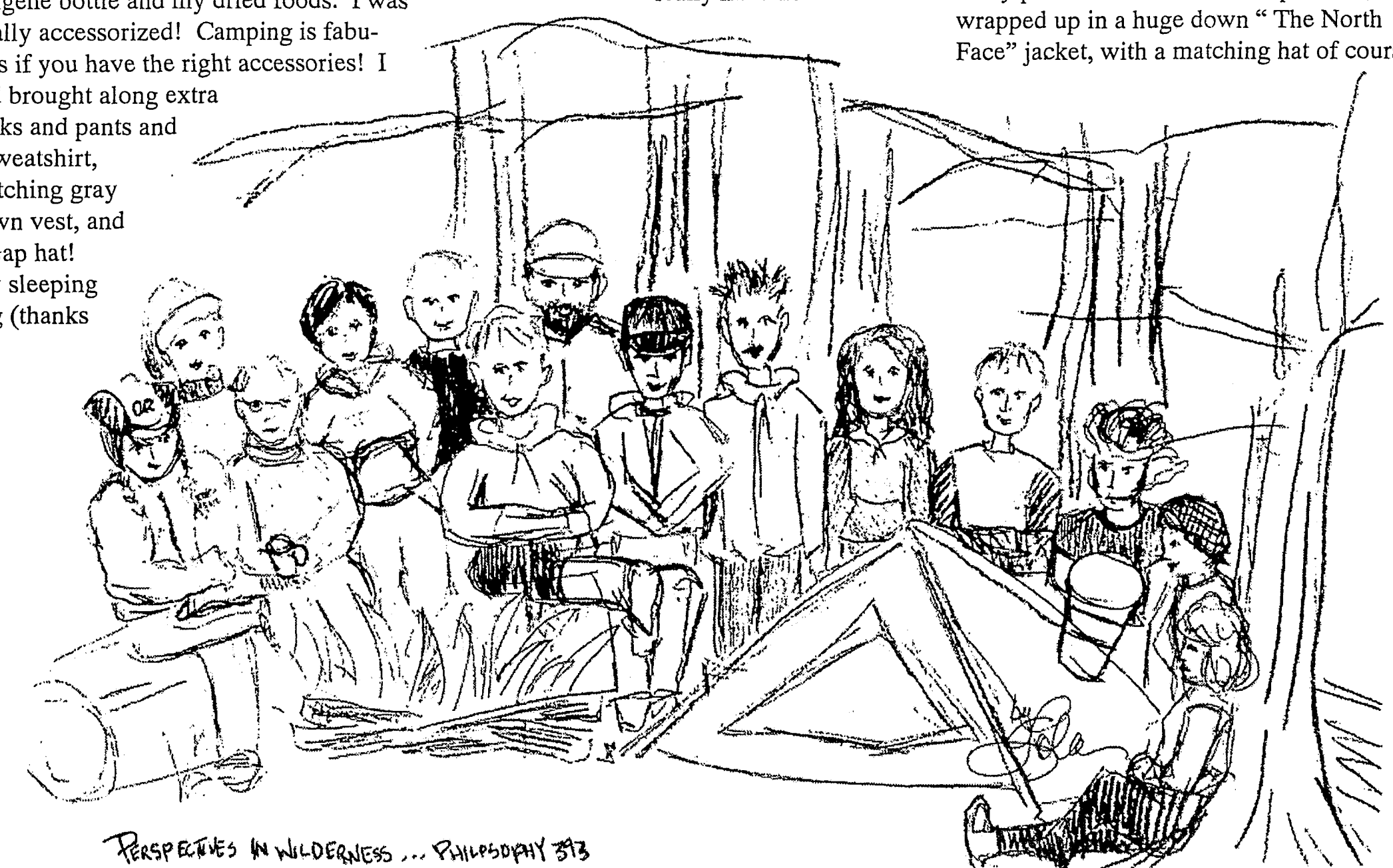


Photo courtesy of Lola Savaggy
Lola fine tunes her hiking skills with a beautiful Alaskan backdrop.

With all of the things that I had to learn, there were the things that "moved" me as well. The way that all my classmates enjoyed being out there together, and the way that in-between the laughing at me, they were laughing with me, too! And the fact that my camping buddy Rick put up with my snoring, and only made fun of me a little bit (he kids because he cares). I loved the serenity of camping. If you can call it that. I felt peaceful when I was out there. When we sat around the fire and talked about philosophy and the wilderness, I felt so intellectual and earthy. I was at one with my inner wilderness woman! I was no long a city princess. I was nature's princess, wrapped up in a huge down "The North Face" jacket, with a matching hat of course.



PERSPECTIVES IN WILDERNESS ... PHILOSOPHY 313

Drawing by Lola Savaggy

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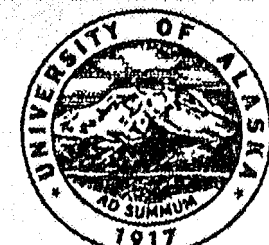
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...STATE continued from page 1

This amendment states that the Alaska permanent fund would be managed by a public corporation established by law. Members of the public appointed by the governor to the board of this corporation would not be subject to legislative approval. These members may only be removed from the board for cause. However, members appointed by the governor to boards of other public corporations that manage significant state assets must be approved by the legislature. Also, a law could be enacted to provide that these other board members may only be removed from office for

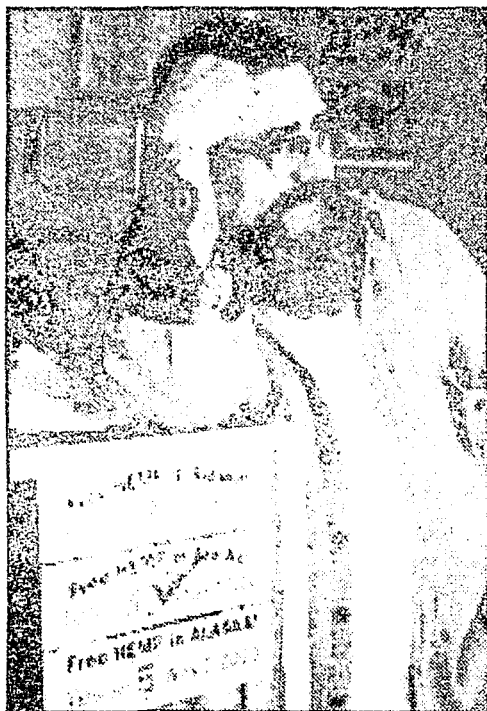


Photo courtesy of TMS Campus



**Tuesday, Nov. 14
8:00 pm • FREE**
UAS Student Activities Center
(across from DeHart's)

Michelle Garb and Dani Klein (*Two Thin*) use their own personal stories of anorexia and bulimia to present an honest and provocative show. Don't miss the 10,000 Calorie Pyramid!

Sponsored by the University of Alaska Southeast Student Activities Office. UAS is an AA/EO employer and educational institution.

cause. Should this Constitutional Amendment be adopted?

Voting yes on ballot measure 3 means that members to boards of public corporations appointed by the governor would need to be approved by the legislature. Also, a public corporation to manage the permanent fund would be formed and filled by the governor, without required legislative approval. Voting no on ballot measure 3 means that governors could continue to appoint members to boards of public corporations without legislative approval, and no corporation to manage the permanent fund would be formed.

The main issues in support of the measure are that citizens would then have more say in people who are appointed to run major public corporations (since legislators are subject to public approval), and people managing the permanent fund would not be subject to party politics. The main issue against the measure is that it will upset the balance of the constitution, giving more power to the legislature.

Ballot Measure 4: Initiative Petition

This initiative bars certain municipalities from setting property tax rates above 10 mills. The 10 mill cap will not apply to taxes to repay bonds issued before January 1, 2001. Taxes to pay for bonds issued after January 1, 2001, must be included in the 10 mill limit. The bill also repeals the law requiring the same mill rate on all properties. It sets the assessment of property at its value on January 1, 2001. Each year an assessment may rise no more than 2 percent. Property will be reassessed when it is sold or improved. Should this initiative become law?

Voting yes on ballot measure 4 approves the tax cap. Voting no on measure 4 rejects

the tax cap.

The main issues in support of the measure are that it limits the amount of property taxes individuals would pay and forces the government to limit spending. The main issues against the measure are that it would most benefit large property owners, not individual Alaskans, and that it would severely cut public services, such as schools and fire protection.

Ballot Measure 5: Initiative Petition

This bill would do away with civil and criminal penalties for persons 18 years or older who use marijuana, or other hemp products. These products include hemp used for paper, fiber, food, fuel, medicine, or personal use in private. Marijuana would be regulated like an alcoholic beverage. Doctors could prescribe marijuana. The bill allows for laws limiting marijuana use in some cases to protect public safety. It grants amnesty to persons convicted in the past of marijuana crimes. The bill creates an advisory group to study restitution for those persons. Should this initiative become law?

Voting yes on ballot measure 5 means that marijuana and hemp would become legal in most cases for adults, would be regulated by the state, and that previous marijuana convictions would be undone. Voting no on ballot measure 5 means that marijuana and hemp remain illegal, and no changes are made.

The main issues in support of the bill are that the use of marijuana, a low-impact drug, should be a decision made by individuals (much like alcohol drinking is), and hemp production could bring economic opportunities to the state. The main issues against the bill are that state law would di-

rectly conflict with federal law, and Alaska will become the "drug haven" of North America."

Ballot Measure 6: Referendum

Voters are asked to either approve or reject a law allowing hunters to use airplanes to land and shoot wolves on the same day they fly. The law allows any person with a hunting or trapping license to land and shoot in areas established by the Board of Game. No additional permit may be required. The law also allows the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to use agents, as well as employees, to engage in same day airborne shooting of wolves. A yes vote rejects the law. A no vote approves the law. Should this law be rejected?

Voting yes on ballot measure 6 means that hunters and Fish and Game agents would not be allowed to shoot wolves on the same day they fly. Voting no on the measure means that hunters with licenses and Fish and Game agents would be allowed to land and shoot on the same day.

The main argument in support (a no vote) is that wolves are dangerous to habitation and the Board of Game must have this tool to regulate wildlife. The main arguments against the referendum (a yes vote) are that land-and-shoot hunting is unsportsmanlike (does not support fair-chase) and this referendum was already rejected (voted yes) by voters in a previous election (and later overturned).

Whalesong Bake Sale!

Date: Thursday, November 2, 2000.

Time: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Where: Outside the Hendrickson Bldg. (upper level)



- Cookies
- Cupcakes
- Candy apples
- Sweets

Come by our table and say hello.

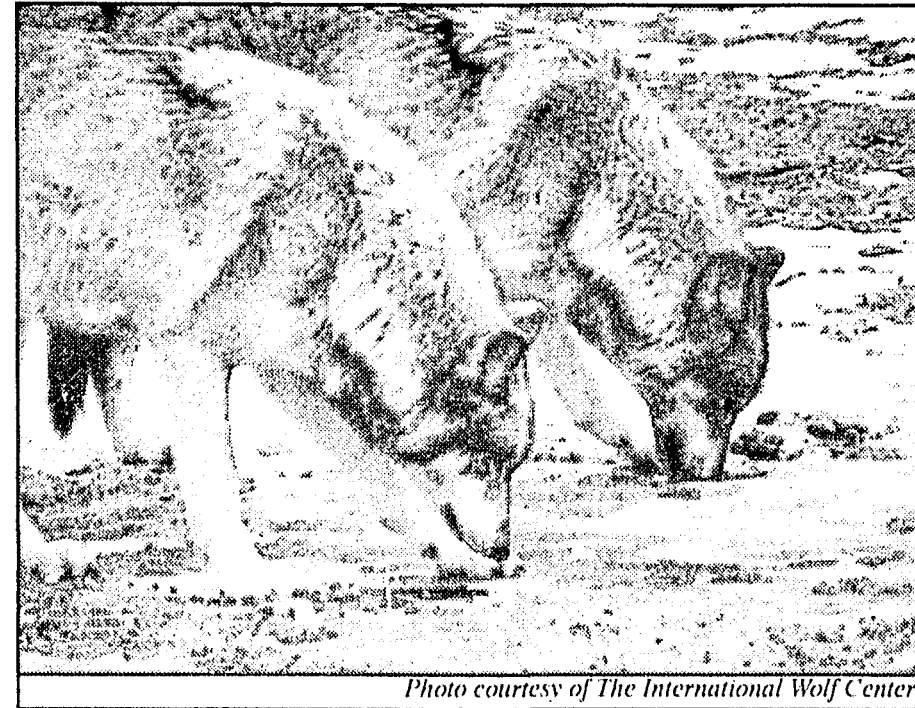


Photo courtesy of The International Wolf Center

You

*Ever changing
Ever growing
Ever learning
of my broken heart*

*Ever raging
Ever knowing
Ever turning
of my broken heart*

*Once forgotten
Once mistrusted
Once mistaken
and still I stay*

*Once begotten
Once lusted
Once awakened
and still I stay*

*Lasting silence
Lasting heartbreak
Lasting pain
you'll never see*

*Lasting noise
Lasting sickness
Lasting wanting
you'll never see*

-student contributor

Students take advantage of 'Potty Politics'

By Alice Albrecht
Whalesong Staff

I'm taking a new "Business Ventures" class that is teaching me to expand my horizons, think outside of the box, be on the lookout for new ideas on ways to sell and ways to advertise.

So when I happened to pop into the women's restroom in the Mourt Building, I was kind of impressed with some new-age thinking I observed.

Since coming to UAS, I've been reading the "Stall Street Journal". Hey, these guys are onto something. Just think, you've got a captured audience for one to two minutes maybe three or four times a day, (de-

pending on mocha/coffee consumption, maybe less and probably more).

Anyway, I popped into the bathroom the other night and I swear these future marketing professionals must know their market, because I was genuinely surprised to see advertisements for not only the "Stall Street Journal" but health topics and flyers for students running for office.

I'm really impressed by all these high-minded movers and thinkers... I mean movers and thinkers. But I'm waiting for this idea to really take off. Imagine, if you will, printed toilet paper, much like the back of your grocery receipts, adver-

tising great events and dinners, and other places to go.

And it doesn't end there. City offices, public facilities, public parks all renting advertising space, and I can see their slogan now, "Seat your ads down right here!"

As I sit there pondering 3-4 times a day with those flyers getting my undivided attention, I have to wonder why it took so long for advertising to go from, "for a good time call..." to "vote for Joe Schmo for student council."

In conclusion, I believe this is the wave of the future and anyone who uses potty politics and potty promotion is sure to get a head!

Dungeon diner: why the Business and Public Administration Departments should get your vote

By Alice Albrecht
Whalesong Staff

Liz's lethal leeches, Dye's dreadful dog dip, Hacker's hardened hearts, and Michele's maggot moose burger were just a few of the items that Business and Public Administration served up at the Dungeon Diner last year, when Shirley Grubb, Karen Cummins, Emily Wescott and Michelle Moslak coordinated their department's Halloween festivities.

In fact, 1999 was a very good year for the "Dungeon Diner". Besides winning the University Halloween contest, the "Dungeon Diner" won the Juneau-wide KSUP radio station contest hosted by Kelly Perez.

Now the Education, Liberal Arts and Sciences Department thinks it's their turn to win the UAS competition. They are so confident, in fact, that they put out a challenge to all departments, whereby ELAS will make a potluck for the winning team.

When it comes to potlucks, Business and Public Administration has ELAS beat hands down. Last year's potluck also consisted of such items as sautéed eyeballs, brain sticks, and faculty specials like Power's putrid pastrami, Wayne's wicked bat wings and Emily's eerie edible earwig eyes.

While ELAS is coordinating their Alice in Wonderland theme, Business and Public Administration is working on their renaissance theme, Student Services is going hillbilly, Financial Aid is stepping back to the 60s, and Student Housing is putting on a haunted house.

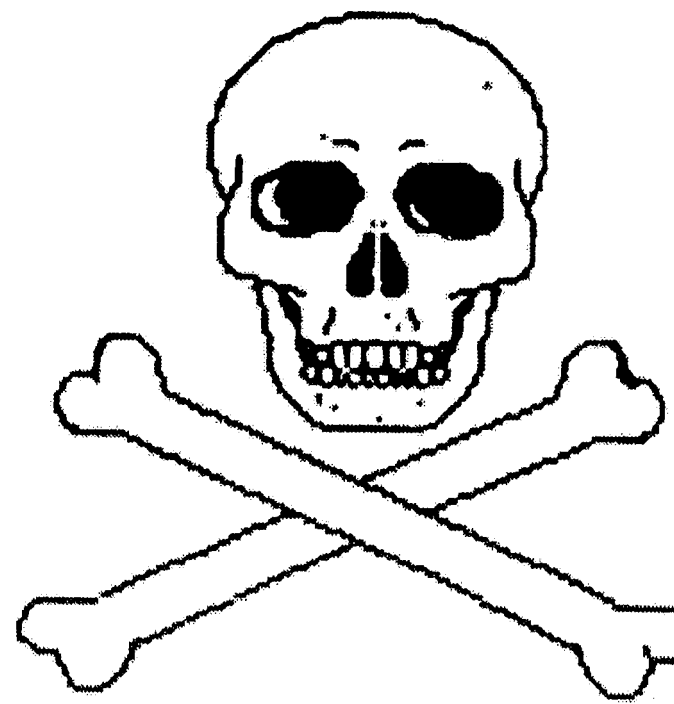
Students will be asked to vote on the best theme/area. So be sure and check with Lola Savatgy (student activities programmer) on Tuesday, October 31, so you can vote on why you think the Business and Public Administration Department should win again.

Mmmmmmmmmmmmmmmmm, Let's Eat!

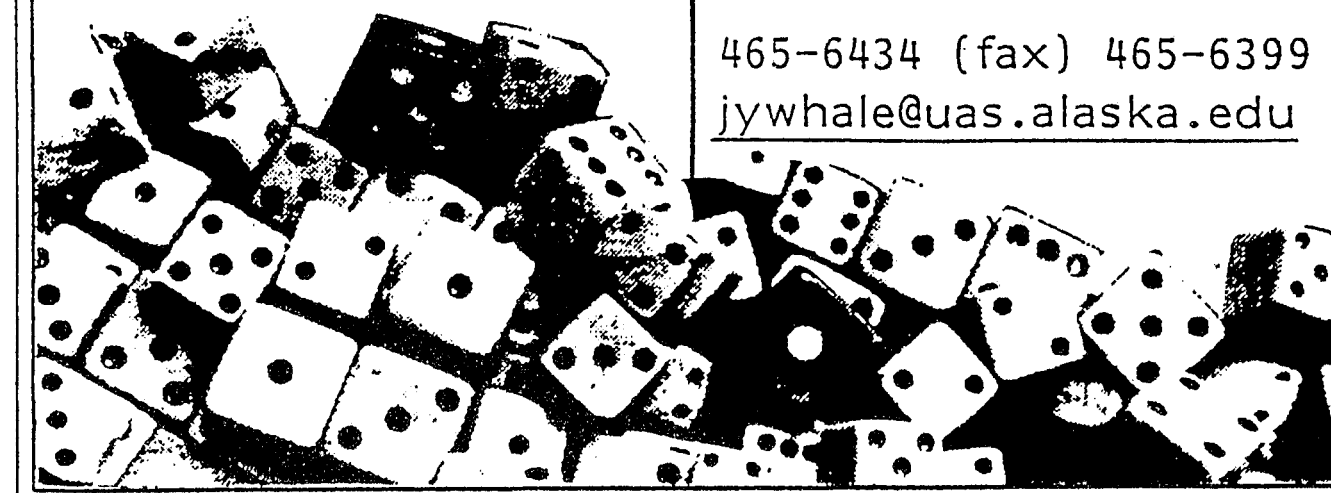


Happy
Halloween
from
the
Whalesong!

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Buying or
selling,
Put the odds
in your Favor!

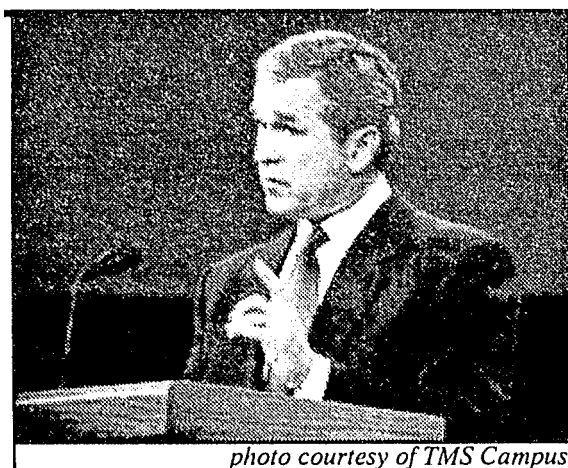


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FOCUS

...BUSH continued from page 2



bloating of the abdominal cavity and then death), which is a known result of pollution on fish. Makes you want to drop a line in the water, doesn't it?

Okay, so you're not in education or the natural sciences. Are you a single parent? Don't expect GW to help you collect any child support; Texas ranks 42nd in child-support collections. Hopefully you have health insurance, because Texas ranks 48th in per capita funding for public health. There's going to be one hell of a line at the clinic.

And I hope you don't expect a lot of frivolous spending on public education; Texas ranks 41st in per capita spending on public education. I've spent a good deal of time in Texas, and believe me, it shows.

However, Texas is number one in other areas such as percentage of children without insurance and executions.

Perhaps you're gay or lesbian? GW thinks it should be illegal for you to adopt children,

and he's opened the door for Texas to take back the children of those who came out after adopting.

Maybe you believe in a woman's right to choose? GW's own words: "I will do everything in my power to restrict abortion."

Perhaps you're concerned about hate crimes? GW, scholar that he is, declares, "All crime is hate crime."

Maybe you're a minority? Don't expect affirmative action to help level an often uneven playing field, since GW, with all his vast experience as an underprivileged minority, says affirmative action is only "quotas and racial preferences."

I believe that one way to judge a person's future actions is by their past actions. Do you really want someone who cares more about the dollar than people as your president? This is not "compassionate conservatism," it's cruelty. I don't think children should be without health care, and I don't think they should go hungry. I don't believe a state as wealthy as Texas should rank 5th in the nation for the number of people living in poverty. I don't believe someone who was raised with the proverbial silver spoon in his mouth can identify with a single parent on public assistance. I don't believe GW can empathize with the woman who finally has had enough beatings

and fights back, killing her abusive spouse. Texas was, after all, the first state to execute a woman.

The simple fact is the majority of our citizens are not good ol' white boys with an endless cash flow, great connections, and a presidential lineage.

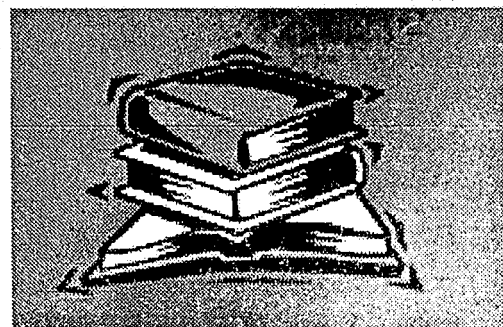
America is the greatest country and I think we deserve better than George W. Bush. We are the caretakers of the future. Think of the world GW will create for your children. Numbers don't lie, but politicians do. Do we really want our future to look like Texas?

...CANDIDATE SELECTION from page 2

determined to polish a desk load of apples for various voting groups.

George W. Bush offered a contrast. The vice president sought repeatedly to goad the governor into argument, but Mr. Bush was determined to avoid rhetorical traps. He preferred, instead, to emphasize his record as a bipartisan leader of a huge state, and the importance of restoring common purpose in Washington. Where the vice president was disdainful, the governor was conciliatory; when Al Gore addressed his opponent directly, George W. Bush answered to his audience.

Both candidates "did what they had to do," as they say; but Governor Bush probably did himself more good. Vice President Gore did an excellent job of comparing and contrasting himself with Governor Bush. But by emphasizing tone, temperament, character and general philosophy, George W. Bush probably came across as the more attractive figure of these two very able men. Of course, we will have to wait for Nov. 7 to know for sure.



CAMPAIGN

STUDENTS
POLITICS

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Nader to Rejuvenate the Political System

By Meredith Wallis
Whalesong Contributor

My German roommate recently asked me why anyone in the United States would vote for a third party candidate. "But you know they're not going to win," she said. I would like to believe that selecting a winning candidate is not the only objective of most voters. If I recall correctly, the purpose of citizen voting is to exercise actual influence in determining the leaders of our nation. How many people feel as though they truly have influence, though? In the time of "choosing the lesser of two evils" it's not very many. In this election, however, one viable candidate does sit outside of the confinements of our two-party system. His name is Ralph Nader.

Despite so many people's discontent with the two major parties, none of the other parties receive much attention or publicity. This country seems to be stuck in a pattern of willing unhappiness, wherein people complain about the lack

of real choices around election times, but refuse to acknowledge that other, valid options may exist. Again referring to my German roommate, she was surprised when looking at my absentee ballot to see nearly ten parties worth of presidential candidates listed. "Wow, there actually are a lot of parties," she commented. And it's true; many parties exist in the U.S. beyond the Democrats and the Republicans. Why don't people know more about them? Why don't they have bigger campaigns? Because they don't have the money.

Corporations largely fund both the Democrat and Republican parties. Now is a time of burgeoning globalization when, in many ways, huge multinational corporations run the U.S. government. They give inordinate, and often illegal, sums of money to both parties in return for a protection of their interests no matter which party has the most people, or the most influential people, in office. For this reason, the government doesn't necessarily look very different depending on which party has a president in

office or a majority representation in Congress. True, Gore and Bush present different platforms and represent different groups of people, but would either of them change things very much once in office? And would the term of one look much different from that of the other? Probably not—for two reasons. They're both politicians who want to maintain the support the majority of the population, and they both want to stay in the good graces of the companies and corporations that fund their campaigns.

Ralph Nader represents the Green Party in the 2000 election. He also represents a way out for all those voters disenfranchised with the politics of the "one party with two faces." In fact, his campaign has particularly targeted independent voters, many of whom are often non-voters, for support. In this respect, the state of Alaska should be an effective place to win support since more than half of its voters are not registered for either of the two

...continued on page 9

FOCUS

...NADER continued from page 2

And even these differences will, in many cases, soon morph into their opposites after the game is over, so that fans will barely be able to recognize the teams that they rooted for amid the debris of broken promises and betrayals.

Much of the public sees the whole game as rigged, and it is true that most of the outcome is assured in advance. The great problems of the day will remain un-addressed or promise to deteriorate, regardless of who wins. Among the major ones:

Our 43 million citizens without health insurance, the one out of every six children that grows up in poverty. The failure of our educational system. The growing inequality of income and wealth. The self-defeating "war on drugs" that has given us the world's biggest prison population.

On these and most other crucial issues, neither candidate offers any credible proposals for change. And it is not for want of solutions — or, in the world's richest country, a lack of means to solve these problems.

For those who would nonetheless try to understand politics, the media make it much more difficult than following sports.

In sports reporting, the most important information is clear and up front. Even if the Yankees or the Mets are not your team, broadcasters and sports writers will provide you with helpful information on the players, their batting averages and earned run averages, and some interesting history of the teams.

It is much more difficult to get what you need from political reporting. Election coverage focuses mainly on polling data, how potential voters feel about the candidates, the impressions they have created, their strategies and demeanor.

And if you want to understand the issues themselves, you may need a research assistant to dig around. Will Social Security go broke when the baby boomers retire? Can we afford national health insurance for everyone? Why did the Federal Reserve raise interest rates six times over the last 16 months? What do the IMF and World Bank do? What is our government doing in Colombia, with hundreds of millions of our tax dollars?

Some of these questions have very simple answers. The answer to the one about Social Security, for instance, is "no." Others are more

complex but still easily understandable with less background knowledge than most sports fans acquire in a single season. But the information provided by the media is spotty, and perhaps more important, heavily skewed toward the interests of those with power and wealth.

In the current election, the media really abandoned its own most basic principles by collaborating in the exclusion, led by partisan interests, of consumer advocate Ralph Nader, from the presidential debates and most campaign coverage.

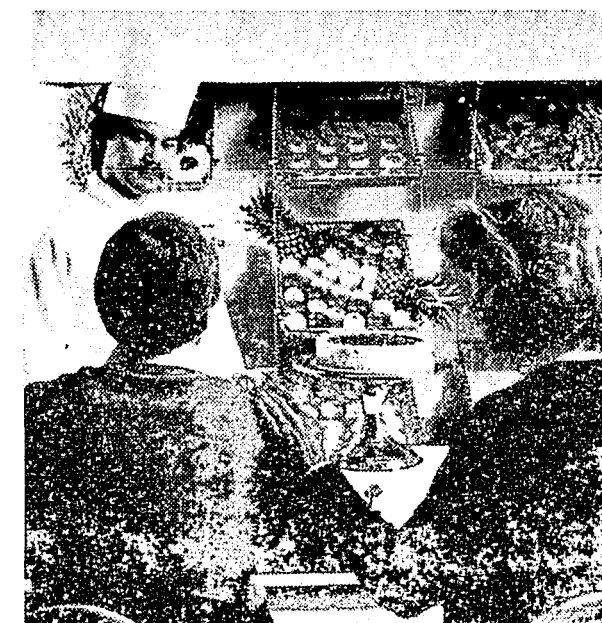
Nader is not only the most qualified candidate but an American hero, a man of unimpeachable integrity who many millions would vote for if they

had a chance to see and hear him in the race. But the press went out of its way to make sure that they didn't. His exclusion is comparable to suspending Mark McGuire for the season because he criticized the relentless commercialism of major league baseball.

We have a long way to go before we have the kind of clean elections and independent press that could make politics a mass spectator sport, let alone a participatory activity, for the majority of citizens.

In the mean time, it should be no surprise that most Americans choose to grab a beer and enjoy the game, at least they will have something to celebrate when their team wins.

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Real-life Halloween stories to chill your bones



Ghost ship

eagle_j4@hotmail.com

In February of 1991 my ship was on patrol in the Bear- ing Sea. I was on the helm

when a voice came through the radio. Now we monitor all channels and you get a lot of static, but the voice that came over the radio was clear. "Alaskan Enterprise this is Alleutian Enterprise," the voice repeated the message, and then silence. We were stunned on the bridge because we were hearing a voice from a ship that had sunk the previous year. Now at first we thought it was a joke, and our radio can pick up traffic from great distances. However there were no ships within 24 miles not that makes a difference. One of our Quarter Masters plotted where we were and found at the time of the transmission we were around the area where it had sank. We were there a year to the date of the sinking. At times I still do not believe what I heard. It did happen, I know.

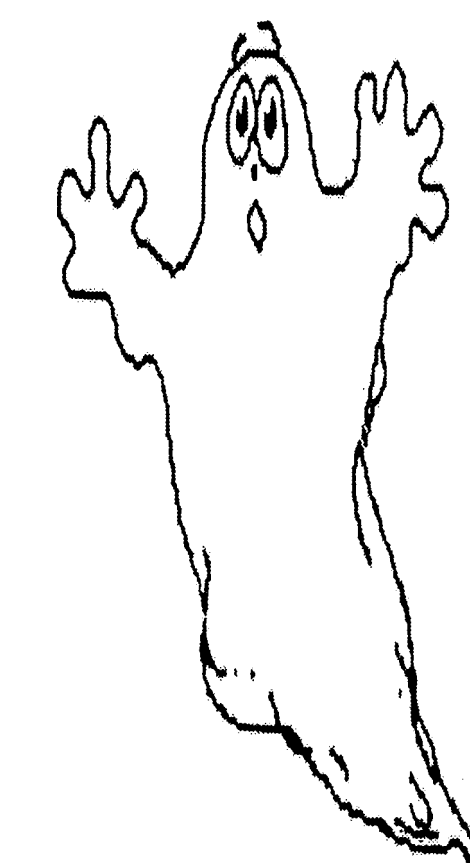
Minnie Quay: girl haunts Lake Huron

Anonymous

The story you are about to hear is a true story that happened in a small, now run-down, town in northern Michigan. In 1886 a 15-year-old girl named Minnie Quay and her family moved to Michigan. Minnie was the oldest of 7 kids and was very lonely since they moved. The town was busy back then and was a heavy shipping industry. Like the other teenage girls, Minnie would go down to the docks when the ships came in and wait to talk to the sailors. She met a sailor (who's name is not known) and they fell in love. Minnie's mom heard from other woman in town that Minnie was seeing a sailor and was furious with her daughter. She did not want Minnie seeing a sailor because she feared that he had other girlfriends in other towns. She did not let her see him anymore. One day her parents and

they got back they told Minnie that her love had died in a terrible storm at sea. Minnie was devastated and mad because she didn't get to say goodbye. The next time her family went away she walked down to the pier and plunged to her death. Now, here's where it gets scary: it's said that Minnie walks the beaches of Lake Huron in mourning and looking for her lost love. I know it's true because my family and I have a summer home 1 mile north of where Minnie lived, and on several occurrences late at night I've heard the crying of a girl. One night I was sleeping and all of a sudden I just woke up I looked out the window and saw a glowing figure of a girl on the beach. Also, there has been 3 murders of teenage girls who drowned late at night. One girl survived and said she was beckoned into the

water by a teenage girl who was wearing an old-fashioned white dress. Others in the area have claimed to hear scratching and tapping at their windows. One night I suggested to some friends that we visit Minnie's grave. When we were there we



got stuck in the mud. My mom had to put it in 4-wheel drive to get out. My mom thinks it was just a coincidence, but I know it was Minnie trying to keep us there. That very same night Alyse (a girl that was sleeping) started crying and screaming in her sleep. We woke her up and she claims that Minnie was with us. There was a lady who conducted all kinds of tests for paranormal activity, and her results came back positive. To this day I visit her grave. And late at night I feel her presence. Rest in peace Minnie Quay.



The Shadowlike Figure: a boy versus It

Brian @ Phantom679@aol.com

When I was about 15 or so, (now I'm 29) my best friend lived in a house that's haunted. The previous owners won't even talk about it. That there tells you something. Anyway, to name a few occurrences, lights went off and on, dishes floated and smashed, figures appeared in mirrors, shadows, footsteps, door-slams, you name it. Once we came home and thought my friend's mother was home drying laundry. The dryer was on, but no one had been home all day. I guess I'll tell you about what scared the ever living sh#@ out of me. We were working out in his basement one night. We had the radio on low in the other room. All of a sudden the volume turned down. We went into the other room and turned it up again. Sure enough, a few minutes later it was turned down again. We figured it was the radio. That's all fine, well, and good, but you have to turn a knob to operate the volume. Anyway, we continued working out. All of a sudden we heard footsteps run upstairs, slam the door, then run up the stairs above and slam a second

door. We went upstairs to check it out, but found nothing. No one was home except for us. After the workout I walked home. I went through his backyard, through some bushes to the street. As I got about 300 feet away, I looked back. His back light was going off and on by itself. Then it came on and a dark shadowlike figure stood there. It (as I call it) started walking towards me. I started to walk faster, but when I did, it ran, I'm talking fast. I ran, slipped on the ice, got up then fled through a yard and it was on my a***. I leaped over a brook and ran home. When I got there no one was home. I immediately called my friend, thinking it was him and there'd be no answer. He answered. I asked how he got home so fast? He had no clue what I was talking about so I told him. The next night I was working out once again, this time at his neighbor's house who was also our friend. We heard a slam on the bulkhead, then the same dark figure appeared in the basement window. I now had to explain this to my other friend. When I left I was walking and had to look

back. My buddy popped out from behind the house and just ran at me. I flew home but a different way. Again it was on my a***. Nevertheless, I made it home again. Whatever it was, it didn't like or want me there. I could always run fast but this thing was much faster. I know it could have caught me if it tried. The weird thing is that the day after the first night, I retraced my steps to see footprints in the snow. They departed from mine before the brook, then went off into a swamp towards my friend's houses again. All I know is that house was or is weird. My friend's parents split up so I haven't been back in years. His whole family swears it's haunted.

...NADER from page 6

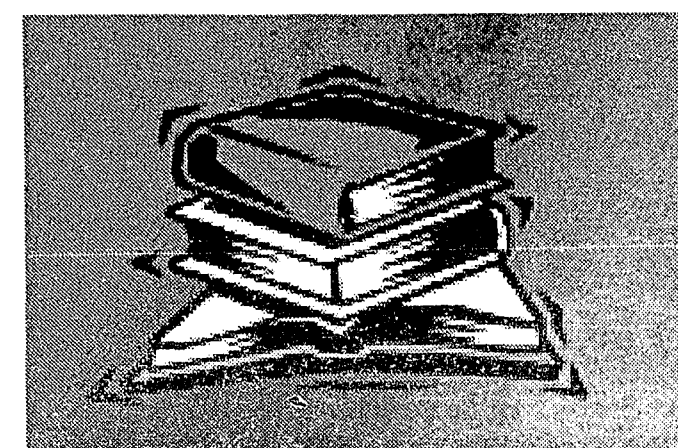
main parties.

Nader's present campaign addresses a variety of pertinent issues, most of which, as he sees it, stem from the unequal distribution of power in this country. The Clinton Administration has boasted of a booming, healthy economy, but huge number of citizens do not experience that alleged success. When inflation is taken into account, most workers in the United States right now are making less than they did in 1979. A huge number of people cannot find affordable housing. Over twenty percent of U.S. children are growing up in extreme poverty. The personal wealth of Bill Gates equals that of the poorest 120 million Americans. Obviously, wealth and power are not distributed evenly. For the wealthy capitalists, yes, the economy is booming. For the majority of citizen consumers, these are trying times.

Nader strives to imple-

ment a fairer, more genuinely democratic government through drastic political and campaign finance reform and the restraint of corporate power. He wants to see not only a successful economy, but a just economy wherein everyone has access to a living

goes unchecked and unpunished when profits serve as the greatest motivator. And despite Gore's claims to environmental concern, and perhaps even despite his own intentions, the prosecution of environmental crimes has fallen off sharply during his



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wage, affordable housing, quality education, and healthcare. Nader's campaign also addresses issues of discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and minority status. He genuinely values and wants to establish equal protection and empowerment for all groups of people.

Environmental protection plays a role in Nader's campaign as well. Destruction of the environment frequently

time in office. Again, the influence of corporate money plays a role here, because the government can't very well prosecute a company that provides large sums of money even if it has contributed to vast environmental destruction.

In general, Nader has been fighting for the interests and rights of consumers for over forty years. He graduated from Harvard Law School in 1958, and not long afterward

began a life of political activism. In 1963, began working as a consultant in the U.S. Department of Labor. He also wrote political and social commentary for *The Nation* and *Christian Science Monitor*. His first well-known work of national importance concerned the institution of auto safety regulations in the 60's. Since that time, he can also claim responsibility for the passage of seemingly countless other acts regarding citizen safety and rights, including insurance rates, nursing home abuses, and worker protection. He has established dozens of public interest groups, and spurred both the Freedom of Information Act and the Clean Air Act.

Ralph Nader has developed a legacy of

informed concern, compassion, and efficacy in this country. To put things simply, he gets things done. Voting for Nader in the upcoming election would affect change—to a great degree if he were to be elected; however, admittedly, that's an extremely unlikely possibility. Even if Nader receives only five percent of the total votes, though, the Green party would be awarded federal campaign matching funds in 2004, which would increase the overall visibility of the party, and perhaps strike a blow to the uniformity of our present two-party system.

Life Magazine named Nader as one of the 100 most influential people of the 20th Century. Luckily for the citizens of this country, his influence continues in the year 2000.

If you would like more information about Ralph Nader and his campaign for presidency, visit www.votenader.org

Reality check ...

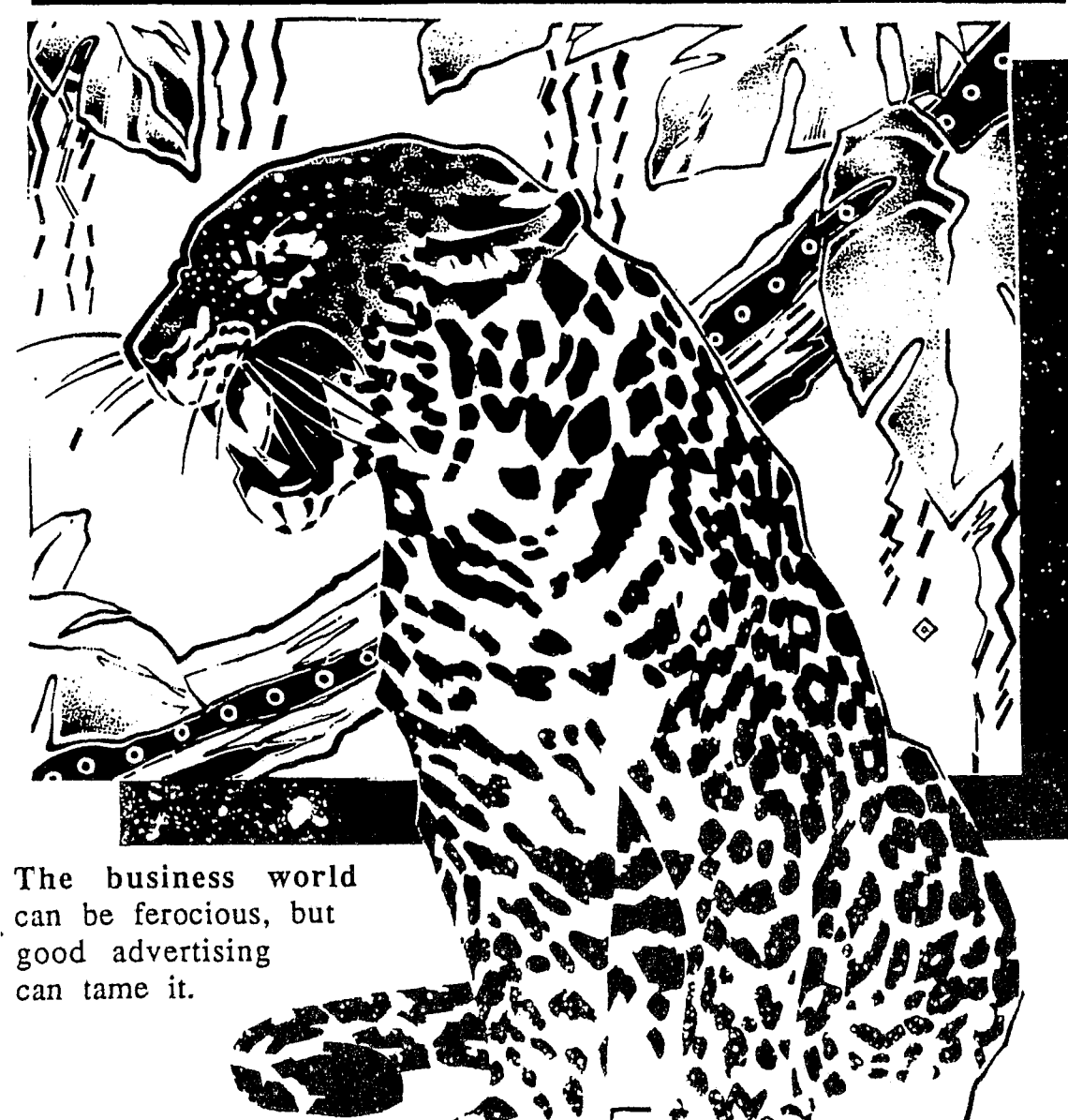
From the editor

Tuesday, November 7th is Election Day. Please, please, please do not forget to vote. The vote is arguably the single most powerful tool American citizens possess. To not vote is to throw aside a right that Americans have fought for relentlessly, on the battlefield and off. To not vote is to also relinquish all rights to whining, complaining, or griping about the subsequent results of such election. Period. The polls are open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m. There are no excuses.

On another note, the Whalesong staff would like to apologize for the delay in distribution of our last issue, and any errors with the current issue. Due to consistent technological difficulties, production has not quite been up to par. Again, we apologize for the delay and any errors in our publications. Thank you for your patience and support of the Whalesong.

Sincerely,
Seneca Theno
Whalesong Editor

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Alaskan singer makes waves again Jewel chronicles her dreams in new book

By Andy Argyrakis
TMS Campus

She went from living in a car to living on a bus. She went from humble beginnings, to being a major celebrity with her feet planted on the ground. She's poured her heart and soul into music throughout the latter portion of the 90's, and has also shared her most intimate thoughts in a best selling book of poetry.

Jewel has followed her heart and done a lot of growing up from her days of hunger to her current state of triumph. For those that want to know the whole story from rags to riches, Jewel tells all in her first ever autobiographical book "Chasing Down the Dawn."

"I sort of see the book the same way I see my records," says the pop star gone author in a recent phone conversation. "They tend to be the same in the sense that there's a story to be told, poetry to be spared, life emotions to be expressed, and observations of the people I see around me."

Poetry was the main focus of Jewel's debut book "A Night Without Armor," a subject that fans embraced and critics came down upon. "I was really happy it sold," laughed Jewel. "I didn't write it with the media's influence in mind or really my fans either."

I was guided by my interests."

Much of the media attention focused on the fact that the book was filled with larger than normal fonts and spacing, while sometimes filled with abstract reflections. In addition, Jewel was scrutinized for releasing a book of poetry before a life story.

"The publishing company wanted this book ["Chasing Down the Dawn"] to come out first," she recalls. "My job is to create without as much noise as possible and that's why I can be so personal. When you create in an inorganic environment, or one focused on sales and pleasing others, you don't get that honesty. When you create in an organic environment, your love for your craft comes through in your work and it is a lot less calculated."

That's why "Chasing Down the Dawn" continues in the tradition of honesty and openness, with the core influence coming from Jewel's time on the road on her "Spirit" World Tour. During that time, she drove from coast to coast in the U.S. and flew overseas for numerous dates in support of the album.

"The book chronicles my changes and shifts throughout life,"

Jewel says. "My observations are all very personal, just like my music. The same things that strike a person with my songs will do so in the book."

Jewel's message is particularly poignant to the college-aged crowd as she experienced a lot of trials and tribulations during those years. "I love that age group because they are still on fire," Jewel says. "They are still close to the dream of what is possible. That's a very potent place to be. The more I'm around politics, the more I lose a lot of fire and passion and replace it with cynicism. These days it's harder to bring about change, especially as you get older."

This musician and author is currently signing copies of her book and meeting up with young people on a tour all across the nation. Although the issue is not a focus of the book, she does get asked to comment on the political realm quite a bit, especially in light of the upcoming election. She can also identify with student's lack of interest or confusion when it comes to this year's candidates.

"I was the same way, to a degree, it is easy to do that," she recalls. "That isn't a noble way of thinking but there is legitimate complaint about not being able to relate. I think in this election, we don't have the luxury of not voting. We may feel like we are picking the lesser of two evils, but people need to know that this is the greatest freedom in world."

Jewel plans to cast her vote next month and continue to search deep inside her herself to be a more informed and caring human being in all aspects of life. For Jewel, growth is manifested in personal expression, something which she has no fear about doing. "I think my growth in my art is sort of just a snake sin," she adds. "It's always a reflection from where you've been. I'm proud that I can stay strong in all aspects of life while many have lost their footing."

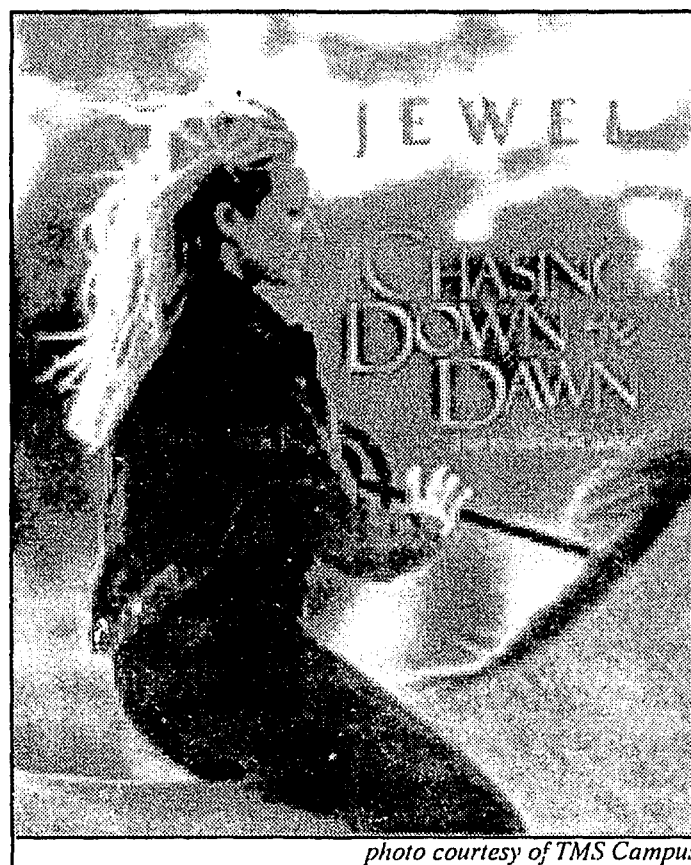


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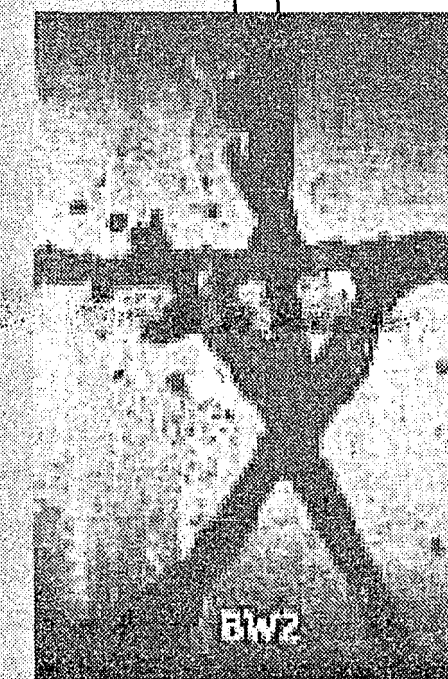
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In Review

Blair Witch 2: two honest reviews

By Seneca Theno
Whalesong Staff

The first "Blair Witch" movie was bad. Bratty kids with too much time, too little money, and no acting skills attempted to make fools of all the gullible moviegoers and thrill-seekers across America. The studios ate it up, and America fell for it. Hard. "Blair Witch" was dubbed the scariest movie ever by fans and critics alike. I'm sorry, but watching a bunch of college kids tramp around the woods like idiots is not my idea of super scary, unless, of course, you realize that they are the "future" of America. Now that's scary. So, like the gullible, hopeful idiot I am, I shelled out the \$8.50 to see "Blair Witch 2: Book of Shadows." To be fair, I didn't judge the movie right away. It took me a whole 0.22 seconds to realize how really bad it was going to be. The story focuses around a group of people on a Blair Witch tour. The wonderfully enchanting and endearing characters are: Jeff, the insane (literally) group leader, Kim, the gothic "tell-it-like-it-is" loner (and, as usual, the most normal of the bunch), Erica, the super sexual earthy witch child, Stephen, a down-to-business author too old to even begin to fit in, and Tristen, Stephen's more subjective pregnant girlfriend and research partner. Approximately forty-nine minutes of the one hundred minute movie are random scenes of drinking, smoking, and everyone having sex with everyone else. Another forty-nine minutes of the movie are random scenes of knife-wielding sadists and up-close, gory mutilation. Oh, that leaves only 2 minutes for actual plot development. Huh. On the upside, there was real potential for a decent plot. I won't give it away, of course, but if you concentrate real hard during the movie you may find it yourself. To summarize: too typical, too gory, too drunk and too high, too cheap, and too freakishly bad to miss.



By Amelia Jenkins
Whalesong Staff

I do this thing when I attend trashy movies where I don't eat dinner first, but instead down a lot of sugar. This gives me a light-headed vertigo feeling during dizzy cinematography. Thanks to some truffles, I had a good time for at least part of this movie. The music was loud and immature. The cameras zoomed in and out, and spun around fast. And... I feel like I need one more flattering comment for the sake of "flow" but I'm not getting one. The blond woman had pretty hair. That's not really good enough, is it? I did get a kick out of the beginning. The familiar "mock documentary" style was poorly acted, but pleasingly self-deprecating. I also enjoyed the gruesome images of what mental institutions were like in the 50's. Too bad it was supposed to be present day. I didn't find a lot more to enjoy.

For a movie of this quality, the actors are supposed to be better looking, and I was sick of sixth-grade "deep, philosophical discussions" after about 10 minutes. The quick, non-sequetor shots of lurid violence didn't make them any more interesting. I wasn't a huge "Blair Witch" fan last year, but I did appreciate the notion that insinuated violence is more disturbing than blood.

and guts. This was a lesson as shortly lived as the naked teenagers in the sequel. Unlike its predecessor, "Book of Shadows" is a classic and familiar horror story. We watch a small group of characters deal with a vague but frightening situation, become a threat to each other because of that fear, have much adolescent sexual tension, and make decisions that defy all laws of the human potential for stupidity. And for that it was sort of fun. And then it stops abruptly because the writers don't know where to go from there.

P.S. Don't believe anything this movie tells you about Wicca.

Preview

Through November 11: "Much Ado About Nothing," one of Shakespeare's greatest works, is being presented by Theatre in the Rough at 8 p.m. at McPhetres Hall. Tickets available at Hearthside Books. Call 364-3858 for more info.

October 31: Be scared to tears by a haunting rendition of Dracula by JDHS students. The show starts at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. Tickets are \$10 in advance at Hearthside Books or an additional \$2 at the door. Audience members in costume get in half price (Halloween only). The show will also be presented November 3 & 4.

November 1: Witness the beauty and honesty of a Native dance. A "Welcoming Ceremony" will be performed by the Yun Shu Ka dance group in the Lake Room from 2-4 p.m.

November 3: Discover the depths of the earth. Dr. Dan Monteith, UAS Assistant Professor of Anthropology will give a talk at Egan Library at 7 p.m. about the Tongass Cave Project. The lecture is free.

November 4: Women's Health Forum 2000. Celebrating Women's Lives: Growing Older, Growing Wise. This free forum focuses on choices and remedies for women's concerns. A free lunch will be provided, and the program starts at 12:30 at the Tlingit and Haida Indians of the City and Borough of Juneau Hall near Salmon Creek.

November 8: Reaffirm how small you really are...visit the Marie Drake Planetarium at 8 p.m. for a star-studded show about telescopes. Shows are always free.

November 8: "Bus Riders Union," a documentary about the struggle for better bus service in Los Angeles and underlying civil rights abuses, will be shown at 7 p.m. at the JDHS auditorium. Tickets, at the door only, are \$7 general admission, and \$3 UAS students.

November 11: Celebrate Native Heritage Month by attending the Native Storytelling event of Between the Lines. The readings will begin at 1 p.m. at the Alaska State Museum (395 Whittier Street), and are free to the public.

Horoscopes

By Linda Black
Tribune Media Services

Aries (March 21-April 19) -
Today is a 7 - You're still in a holiday mood, whether you're back at work or not. You may feel like taking risks, but watch out. You're liable to be reminded of the rules in a way you don't like. Exercise good judgment! It's a handy skill.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -
Today is a 7 - If you've done planning over the weekend, you should be first in line for the bargains. This is work, but you're great at it. If you're spending somebody else's money, you'll be making bonus points.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) -
Today is an 8 - This would be a fine day to travel with a fascinating companion. Opposites attract, and you never get bored with each other. Obligations could interfere, but don't let them stop you. Get as far as you can in the time you have.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) -
Today is a 7 - Your work, although not easy, should be interesting. You might get to show off your talents. If you're not doing the job you love yet, you might get a glimpse of it. Knowing where you're going is always helpful, even if you won't get there for a while.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -
Today is a 7 - Concentrating may be hard. Your mind is on fun and games. Is romance in your future? But, wait! There's more work to do first. Don't forget your job, or you'll have more worries than you wanted.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -
Today is a 6 - This could be a slow Monday. You may wish you were back in bed. If you have to go to work, don't complain. You might solve a puzzle that's been driving you crazy.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct 22) -
Today is an 8 - You're as cute as a button - and charming, too. You may know somebody else who fits that description. An intellectual type is fascinating, but a gambler's got your heart. Making a decision is always the most difficult part.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -
Today is a 7 - How about getting that thing you've wanted for the house? You might want to dress up your house as a thing, actually. Your night to howl is coming soon. Get ready! There's not a moment to lose!

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -
Today is a 7 - You could have an interesting conversation today with a person who can teach you a lot. The trouble is some information should stay confidential. To make sure that happens could take work on your part. Plug up those keyholes!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -
Today is a 7 - You've got good common sense, and today it could serve you well. A change in your regular routine could cost you money. Better pencil it out before you offer to do it for free. Tell them you'll get back to them on that.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -
Today is a 6 - Something's cramping your style. Somebody's put a damper on your enthusiasm - or is trying. Don't worry. You and friends can get together later. You can even dress up in disguises, so nobody will know who you are.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -
Today is a 7 - You don't like to be sneaky, but you may not want to run into somebody - socially, that is. Well, you're pretty good at becoming invisible. Make sure you meet a deadline so you don't draw attention to yourself.

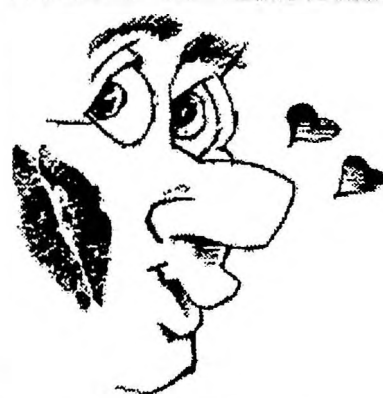
Classifieds

ANYONE
INTERESTED in
forming a poetry club,
contact JSGWSI or
GWSHEAN@hotmail.com.
or, student services for
a sign-up sheet or call
780-6159 and leave a
message.

FREE CLASSIFIEDS
to UAS Students
(including Ketchikan
and Sitka Campuses).
Send them to
jywhale@uas.alaska.com
or drop them in our
box across from the
bookstore.

DON'T
FORGET...WET
WEDNESDAYS at
Squire's from 9 p.m. to
1 a.m. \$10 pitchers of
Alaskan Amber and \$8
pitchers or Rainier.
Must be 21 or older.
Bring your I.d.

Ask Deb...



Dr. Love is temporarily out of
commission for this issue.

Dear Deb:
I got really drunk the other
night and ended up sleeping
with some guy. I already have
a serious boyfriend, should I
tell him?

Deb says:
That depends on you. How
serious is "serious" to you?
Doesn't sound like a responsible
and committed kind of
"serious" to me. How well do
you deal with guilt? Can you
live with the fact that you have
betrayed the trust of the person
you have promised monogamy
with? When people cheat,
regardless of a significant other,
it usually means there are some
problems with the relationship. I
think if your boyfriend and you

were truly "serious" these little
slip-ups would not be an issue.
If you really think this
relationship is a likely candidate
for the long haul then, yes, you
should tell him and build your
relationship on honesty and
trust, although it will take quite
sometime for you to re-gain his
trust. That is if he doesn't dump
you on your hooookin' up ass
first! If you don't see your
boyfriend with you in the distant
future as anything more than an
experience, then I don't think it
is necessary to tell him, but I do
think you should end the
exclusiveness of your
relationship. You are not being
fair to him or yourself...now,
there is something to think
about, besides it's so much fun
to BE FREE!

Dear Deb:
I am single and kinda new in
town but I am too shy to go up
to girls and ask for their
phone numbers. What other
ways could I go about finding
a date?

Deb says:
Are you for real? Do you really
think that guys just walk up to
girls and ask for phone
numbers? Usually, if you are

out on the town, there is at
least a 15-20 minute bout of
banter before the digits are
passed out, unless you are in
one of the local meat markets
and looking for a "date" just
for the night. In those cases,
no full sentences need be
spoken. If you are looking for
something that is more long
term, you might want to get to
know a person under sober
circumstances over a slightly
longer period of time.
Are you a student? Being in
classes with people is a great
way to get to know people
without having to ask for a
phone number. Also,
generally you have access to
the e-mail addresses of your
fellow students to contact
people. (NOTE: This is not an
invitation to Internet stalkers.)
Are you religious? There are
plenty of social opportunities
within a church that would be
a good place to get to know
people. What are your
hobbies or favorite activities?
Get involved with these things
on a community level, the
more people you meet, the
more opportunities you have
to be introduced to the woman
of your dreams. Networking
boy, get it together!